

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 presently stand rejected.

The Examiner has not returned the initialed PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on September 25, 2003. *Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to return the initialed PTO/SB/08.*

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the Drawings filed January 11, 2001 are acceptable.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Go (6,091,938).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Go (6,091,938).

Analysis

The present invention is directed to the opening and closing structure of a flip phone. In particular, a cam mechanism generates a biasing force in either the opening or closing direction to facilitate the opening and closing of the flip portion of the phone. The cam mechanism includes a first cam portion and a second cam portion, which contact each other. This contact portion is formed of a metal member, to thereby improve durability of the overall opening and closing structure of the phone as compared to contact portions that are formed of resin, etc.

According to claim 1, a contact portion between the first cam portion of the rotary shaft and the second cam portion of the bearing member is formed by a metal member. This is illustrated, by example, in Figs. 2-5, wherein the first cam portion 7 of the rotary shaft 5 and the

second cam portion 8 of the bearing member 6 contact via a metal member, e.g., the metal plate 11 and/or the metal claws 14. (See page 11, lines 25-28.)

Go completely fails to teach or suggest the above-described structure. In the Office Action (page 2, second paragraph), the Examiner refers to the projected surface 52 (see Fig. 2) as the first cam and the hinge shaft 40 as the second cam. At page 3, first paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner refers to col. 3, lines 21-55 as teaching that the contact surface between these two cams should be metallized. However, this structure is not in the Go patent. As shown in each of Figs. 3 and 4, the projected surface (so called first cam) 52 contacts the hinge shaft (so called second cam) 40, but there is no teaching or suggestion that a contact portion between these two elements should be formed of a metal member.

The only conductive portions (i.e., metallized) are found at the opposing conductor caps 43, which are not in any way related to a contact portion between the alleged cam portions. See Figs. 2-5.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by Go.

Turning to claim 2, a metal member is at a mutual convex/concave portion between the first and second cam portions. Again, Go fails to teach or suggest this structure. The mutual convex/concave portion is formed by the projection 41 and depressed and projected parts 51, 52 in the Go patent; however, there is no teaching or suggestion that a metal member should be provided at this portion.

In view of the foregoing, claim 2 is patentable *at least* by virtue of its recitation of a contact portion between the first and second cam portions being *constituted by a metal member*.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/757,575

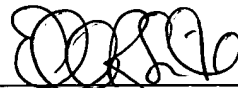
Finally, claim 3 is patentable for similar reasons to claims 1 and 2 above. Namely, Go fails to teach or suggest any structure which includes a metal member at a convex/concave portion of the cams.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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